GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2345
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2006
PETROL PUMPS/ LPG AGENCIES ALLOTTED TO EX SERVICEMEN
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

: whether the petrol pumps/Liquefied Petroleum Gas agencies allotted to Ex-servicemen/ Martyrs and their dependents are being grabbed by oil mafias in connivances with officers of Oil Marketing Companies as reported in Hindustan Times dated July 17, 2006;

(b): if so, whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard;

(c): if so, the details thereof; and

(d): the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to(d): The news-item, captioned "Fraud stink in petrol pump scheme", which appeared in the Hindustan Times on 17.7.2006, has been seen. The specific case referred to in the said news-item is not a retail outlet (RO) dealership (petrol pump) allotted under Government's special scheme for allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships to the widows/next of kin of the defence personnel killed in action in 'Operation Vijay' in Kargil, but it is a dealership allotted by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) under 'Defence Category', as per their normal selection procedure.

The case is about illegal control of IOC's RO, M/s Shaheed Harinder Filling Station at Jattari in Aligarh District, Uttar Pradesh. The matter was referred to IOC's Vigilance Department for investigation. A report has been received by the Government from the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), IOC. As per the report, it is prima facie a case of benami operation. The report states that one unscrupulous individual had influenced the allottee of the RO into letting him run the RO in lieu of financial consideration. The CVO has recommended action against the negligent officers and has also recommended certain measures to check the menace of benami operation especially in the case of allottees under 'Defence Category', who do not have much prior business experience.
The report has been examined in the Ministry and the management of IOC is being advised to take action as per the findings of the CVO.